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May 25, 1984

POLICY STATEMENTS

28/84. BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
to the Franco-British Chamber of
Commerce in Paris on May 25, 1984:

449/51)

The British Government is willing to resolve the remaining differences over the Community budget in time for the European Council at Fontainebleau to relaunch the Community, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in Paris on May 25.

The basis of an agreement exists in the text presented by the French Presidency to the March meeting of the European Council. "What is now needed is movement by all of us to clinch an agreement," he said.

Sir Geoffrey said:

"Britain joined the Community late. But our qualifications were never in doubt. We are one of Europe's oldest democracies. We wanted to add our voice to that of other European countries so that our continent would speak in growing unison on the major political and economic issues. We were determined to play our full part in the political and economic construction of Europe and to contribute our weight to the role which Europe can and must play in world affairs if we are to remain masters of our own destiny, whether political or economic. That is why we joined the Community. And why we are whole-hearted members of it. And that commitment is fully reflected in the role we play in Europe.

"Britain, like France, takes a large share of the defense of our continent. Like France, we bear the responsibilities of an independent nuclear power.

/We ...

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